

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 01273 271024Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EUR-12 /071 W  
-----051840 280606Z /23

R 260130Z JAN 78  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8779  
INFO CINCPAC  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1273

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, CB, CH, VM  
SUBJ: PRC CADRE'S VIEWS ON CAMBODIAN-VIETNAMESE CONFLICT

1. SZETO KEUNG, CHIEF REPORTER OF THE HSINHUA NEWS AGENCY  
HONG KONG BRANCH, TOLD CONGENOFF THIS WEEK HE SAW THREE  
POSSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR THE CAMBODIAN-VIETNAMESE CONFLICT:  
-- A HARD VIETNAMESE LINE TOWARD CAMBODIA WITH VIETNAM  
LEANING FURTHER TO THE SOVIET SIDE, PERHAPS EVEN ALLOWING  
SOVIET USE OF CAM RANH BAY. SZETO IMPLIED THIS WOULD SEVERELY  
DAMAGE SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS.

-- VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WOULD AGREE TO SETTLE THE CONFLICT  
PEACEFULLY THROUGH TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND NEGOTIATIONS,  
LEADING TO A BORDER AGREEMENT. THIS IS THE OPTION CHINA  
IS PUSHING.

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-- THE PRESENT CONFLICT COULD CONTINUE AT A LOW  
LEVEL WITH OCCASINAL FLAREUPS BUT WITH BOTH SIDES  
TALKING AND FIGHTING SIMULTANEOUSLY.

2. ASKED WHICH SCENARIO HE FORESAW, SZETO SAID HE  
DID NOT WISH TO SPECULATE BUT INDICATED HE EXPECTED

THE THRID, WHICH HE SUMMED UP IN THE EXPRESSION  
"TA TA T'AN T'AN" (FIGHT, FIGHT, TALK, TALK).

3. SZETO ALSO STATED THAT CHINA WAS ANXIOUS TO  
END THE CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES  
SO AS NOT TP PERMIT THE "SUPERPOWERS" TO BENEFIT  
FROM THE SITUATION. WHILE HE SAW THE SOVIETS AS  
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FIGHTING TO "FISH IN TROUBLED  
WATERS" HE TERMED THE U.S. ATTITUDE AS ONE  
OF TAKING PLEASURE IN THE MISFORTUNE OF OTHERS.  
SHOESMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, FOREIGN RELATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978HONGK01273  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PINR, MOPS, PBOR, CB, CH, VM  
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**Review Markings:**  
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